

## Message Text

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66-62

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 PM-03 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 EUR-10 PRS-01

L-02 AID-10 OMB-01 RSR-01 /077 W

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R 081125 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2899

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 10263

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MOPS MARR CA HU ID PL VS

SUBJ: SITREP FOR JUNE 7,1973

FOL TEL SENT ACTION IMMEDIATE SAIGON INFO CDRUSSAG, USDAO SAIGON  
FROM CAN THO JUNE 7, BEING REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L CAN THO 411

E. O. 11652: GDBD

TAGS: MOPS, MARR, CA, HU, ID, PL, VS

SUBJECT: SITREP FOR JUNE 7, 1973

SUMMARY: THE NVA REPULSED AN ARVN RANGER BATTALION IN  
CHUONG THIEN AS SECURITY CONTINUES TO DECLINE IN THAT  
BELEAGUERED PROVINCE. THE VI THANH SUB-  
REGIONAL GVN/ JMC CHIEF EXPECTS THE PRG TO DEPLOY A TEAM  
THERE BY JUNE 15. END SUMMARY.

1. SECURITY SITUATION: ( A) MR IV SPOKESMEN REPORTED 51  
VC/ NVA- INITIATED INCIDENTS JUNE 6, INCLUDING EIGHT GROUND  
ASSAULTS, 32 ATTACKS BY FIRE, NINE HARASSMENTS, AND  
TWO ACTS OF SABOTAGE. BOTH SIDES SUFFERED HIGH LOSSES.

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RVNWZ LOST 54 KILLED, 188 WOUNDED, AND SEVEN MISSING, WHILE

CLAIMING 137 VC/ NVA DEAD AND FIVE PRISONERS DETAINED.

(B) THE NVA APPARENTLY INFLICTED A HEAVY DEFEAT UPON THE ARVN 86 TH RANGER BATTALION AT 1800 HOURS JUNE 5 IN DINH AN VILLAGE, KIEN HUNG DISTRICT, CHUONG THIEN. RELIABLE SOURCES SAID THE RANGERS WERE IN BIVOUAC WHEN THE NVA, PROBABLY FROM THE 18 B REGIMENT, FELL UPON THEM. THE RANGERS REPORTEDLY FLED, LEAVING BEHIND 90 MEN AND ABOUT 120 WEAPONS. TWO OF FOUR COMPANY COMMANDERS WERE KILLED, AND THE BATTALION COMMANDER AND HIS EXECUTIVE WOUNDED. OTHER CASUALTIES ARE UNKNOWN BECAUSE THE RANGERS ABANDONED THEIR DEAD AND WOUNDED. ELEMENTS OF THE 21 ST DIVISION, RF UNITS, AND THE 67 TH RANGER BATTALION WERE REPORTED JUNE 6 ATTEMPTING TO RECOVER THE BATTLE SITE. MR IV REDEPLOYED THE TWO RANGER OUTFITS TO CHUONG THIEN MAY 18 TO REINFORCE THINLY- SPREAD 21 ST DIVISION UNITS ( CAN THO 0337).

(C) MR IV BRIEFERS MADE NO MENTION OF THE 86 TH RANGER DEFEAT EITHER JUNE 6 OR JUNE 7. THE CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE CHIEF TOLD A VICE CONSUL JUNE 6 THAT DINH AN HAD SEEN HEAVY FIGHTING THE PREVIOUS DAY AND THAT ARVN CASUALTIES WERE HEAVY. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE RANGERS HELD THEIR GROUND AND, AFTER THE BATTLE, COUNTED 100 ENEMY BODIES. WE FEEL THE PROVINCE CHIEF CONCOCTED NVA CASUALTIES IN ORDER TO PUT THE BEST FACE ON A DISASTROUS DEFEAT. THIS IS THE SECOND SHELLACKING ARVN TROOPS HAVE SUFFERED THIS WEEK, THE FIRST HAVING OCCURRED IN DINH TUONG ( CAN THO 0394).

(D) THE 21 ST ARVN DIVISION' S 31 ST REGIMENT AVENGED THE DINH AN DEFEAT WITH A VICTORY JUNE 6 FIVE KILOMETERS

NORTHWEST OF KIEN TIEN DISTRICT TOWN, CHUONG THIEN. THE REGIMENT' S FIRST AND SECOND BATTALIONS REPORTEDLY REPULSED A VC ATTACK AT A COST TO THEMSELVES OF TWO KILLED AND 16 WOUNDED. THEY CLAIMED 46 VC DEAD AND CAPTURED A MORTAR, A MACHINE GUN, TWO B-40 ROCKET LAUNCHERS AND 11 AK-47 S.

2. ICCS/ JMC: (A) THE VI THANH SUB- REGIONAL GVN/ JMC CHIEF LTC NGUYEN MAU TOLD A VICE CONSUL JUNE 6 HE EXPECTS A PRG TEAM TO DEPLOY TO VI THANH BY JUNE 15. HE IS PREPARING QUARTERS FOR A TEAM OF NO MORE THAN 25 MEN IN THE AMERICAN PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVE' S COMPOUND, WHERE HIS OWN TEAM WILL LIVE AS WELL. THUS, THE PRG MAY BE CONTAINED BETWEEN FRIENDLY

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FORCES.

(B) MAU SAID THE DEPARTURE OF THE CANADIANS IS " VERY BAD" FOR THE GVN. THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS ARE VERY ABLE, HE SAID, AND THE INDONESIANS ARE NOT SHARP ENOUGH TO COUNTER THEIR OBSTRUCTIONIST TACTICS. HE THOUGHT THE AUSTRALIANS OR THE JAPANESE MIGHT MAKE GOOD REPLACEMENTS FOR THE CANADIANS.

(C) MARXIST LOGIC: WE REPORTED MAY 29 ( CAN THO 0367) THAT THE REGION VII GVN/ JMC SURPRISED THE ICCS POLES AND HUNGARIANS

IN VI THANH BY INTRODUCING AN NVA PRISONER AS A " WOUNDED  
VIETNAMESE OFFICER." THE NVA OFFICER TOLD A GOOD BIT OF  
HIS TALE OF INFILTRATION AND WAR BEFORE THE EMBARRASSED  
POLGARIANS MADE THEIR EXCUSES AND LEFT. NOW WE HAVE LEARNED  
THAT THE POLGARIANS HAVE VIGOROUSLY PROTESTED THE GVN TACTIC.  
IN A MAY 31 LETTER TO THE SAIGON JMC THEY POINT OUT THAT  
THE SOLE FUNCTION OF THE ICCS IS TO SUPERVISE THE IMPLEMENTATION  
OF ARTICLE 18 OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT. " SINCE NO MENTION IS  
MADE IN THE AGREEMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF NVA IN THE REPUBLIC  
OF VIET NAM," THEY CONCLUDE, " THERE ARE NO SUFFICIENT GROUNDS  
TO START AN INVESTIGATION."

BARNES  
UNQUOTE.  
WHITEHOUSE

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